

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A truck, comprising:
2 a body;
3 at least one tie-down track, the tie-down track being integral
4 with the body of the truck such that the exterior contour of the track
5 does not extend appreciably beyond the contour of adjacent portions of
6 the body.
- 7 2. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tie-down track is
8 welded to the body.
- 9 3. A truck as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a fitting
10 which can be slidingly moved within the track and then fixed in a desired
11 position, the fitting being releasable from the track.
- 12 4. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the body forms a
13 cargo bed and the track does not extend appreciably beyond the
14 horizontal plane of the cargo bed.
- 15 5. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the truck further
16 comprises a cargo bed and a cab and the track is at the front of the cargo
17 bed parallel to a rear end of the cab.
- 18 6. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the truck further
19 comprises a cargo bed and the tie-down track is located in the cargo bed
20 parallel to a longitudinal direction of the truck.
- 21 7. A truck as set forth in claim 6, further comprising:
22 a second tie-down track in the cargo bed, the second tie-
23 down track being integral with the body of the truck such that the

24 exterior contour of the second tie-down track does not extend appreciably
25 beyond the contour of adjacent portions of the body.

26 8. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the truck further
27 comprises a cargo bed and the tie-down track is located in a side wall of
28 the cargo bed parallel to a longitudinal direction of the truck.

29 9. A truck as set forth in claim 8, further comprising:
30 a second tie-down track in a second side wall of the cargo
31 bed, the second tie-down track being integral with the body of the truck
32 such that the exterior contour of the second tie-down track does not
33 extend appreciably beyond the contour of adjacent portions of the body.

34 10. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the truck further
35 comprises a tailgate and wherein the track is supported by the tailgate.

36 11. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the exterior contour
37 of the track does not extend more than 1/2 inch beyond the contour of
38 the adjacent portions of the body.

39 12. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the exterior contour
40 of the track does not extend more than 1/4 inch beyond the contour of
41 the adjacent portions of the body.

42 13. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the exterior contour
43 of the track does not extend more than 1/8 inch beyond the contour of
44 the adjacent portions of the body.

45 14. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the exterior contour
46 of the track is flush with the adjacent portions of the body.

47 15. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the track has a slot
48 opening which is flush with the adjacent portions of the body.

49 16. A truck as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a fitting
50 which can be slidably moved within the track and then fixed in a desired
51 position, the fitting including a tire cradle.

52 17. A truck as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a
53 protective strip which fits into a track slot opening.

54 18. A truck as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a cross
55 member, securable to the at least one tie-down track, that runs in a
56 direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the truck.

57 19. A truck as set forth in claim 18, further comprising a pulley
58 arrangement supported by the cross member.

59 20. A truck as set forth in claim 18, wherein a longitudinal
60 position of the cross member is adjustable.

61 21. A truck as set forth in claim 3, further comprising a cargo
62 divider supported by said fitting.

63 22. A truck as set forth in claim 3, wherein the fitting is
64 releasable from the track by twisting and then removing the fitting in a
65 direction approximately perpendicular to the track.

66 23. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tie-down track
67 has a slot opening in a vertical plane.

68 24. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tie-down track is
69 located outside of a passenger compartment of the truck.

70 25. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the truck comprises
71 a first tie-down track, a second tie-down track, and a third tie-down track;
72 each of the first, second, and third tie-down tracks being integral with the

73 body of the truck such that the exterior contour of the track does not
74 extend appreciably beyond the contour of adjacent portions of the body.

75 26. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the track has a
76 cross-section of an industrial strut system.

77 27. A truck as set forth in claim 24, wherein the track is located
78 in or adjacent to the cargo bed of a pickup truck.

79 28. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the exterior contour
80 of the track does not extend more than 3/4 inch beyond the contour of
81 the adjacent portions of the body.

82 29. A truck as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tie-down track is
83 connected to the body by bolts.